



# RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



October 17, 2007

## A Cooperative Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*"This strategy represents a new vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It codifies longstanding challenges and reflects a commitment by the maritime services to work cooperatively with friends, partners and allies to realize a shared vision of mutual security, stability and prosperity."*

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

"A Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower" is a collaboratively developed strategy, begun two years ago and reflecting international and national contributions, that commits maritime forces with their inherent flexibility to the crucial task of protecting vital interests in an increasingly interconnected and changing world. Signed by the service chiefs of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, the unified maritime strategy establishes an unprecedented level of cooperation.

### Collaborative Partnerships

- Development of the strategy included interactions with national and international leaders in business, military, civic organizations, think tanks and war colleges. It was unveiled to nearly 100 Chiefs of Navy, Coast Guard and Marines at the International Seapower Symposium.
- Effective execution is founded on a collective responsibility to develop and expand trust, not only among leaders, but between young officers and Sailors who are next generation leaders. They are the ones who will create the strategic relationships with our partners worldwide.
- Through collective security efforts, maritime forces will build confidence and trust among nations while focusing on common threats and mutual interests in an open, multipolar and changing world environment.

### Global system at work

- The Maritime Strategy ensures execution of the global system at work everyday, where change is constant. Change means opportunity for our maritime forces to work more closely together to protect and extend security and prosperity, which depend on free use of the seas. Because strong markets require security, maritime forces are vital – prosperity rests on how well we do our jobs.
- Clearly articulating that our sea services operate across the full spectrum of operations, the strategy raises the prevention of war to a level equal to the conduct of war. We believe that ***preventing wars is as important as winning wars.***
- The strategy addresses the balance of capabilities of our maritime forces and reaffirms our core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control and power projection. It also recognizes the need for expanded capabilities of maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

### Security, Stability and Seapower

- **Security:** Maritime forces are first line of defense with ability to deploy quickly, reach difficult locations
- **Stability:** 70% of the world is covered by water, 80% of the world lives on or near the coastline and 90% of our commerce sails across our waterways. Any disruption to the global system caused by instability has a direct impact on the American quality of life.
- **Seapower:** The unifying force and common denominator that enables global security, stability and prosperity is Seapower.

The Maritime Strategy provides for the **right balance of forces and capabilities**. A key element of this strategy is trust which cannot be surged. Trust must be built over time so that our strategic interests and those of friends, partners and allies are continuously considered while mutual understanding, respect and cooperation are promoted. As it has always been, these critical tasks will be carried out by our people -- the key to success in any military strategy -- and they will make the difference in its implementation.